

MINUTES OF THE DISABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
May 6, 2011

A meeting of the Disability Subcommittee of the Rhode Island Retirement Board (hereinafter "Committee") was held on May 6, 2011 in the Board Room of the Employees' Retirement System, 40 Fountain Street, Providence, Rhode Island.

The following Committee members were present: William Finelli; Daniel Beardsley; Michael Boyce; Susan Knorr Rodriguez; and Mark Dingley.

Also in attendance were: Michael Robinson, General Counsel; Dr. Christopher Ley, Medical Advisor; Melissa Malone and Frank Karpinski, Employees' Retirement System.

CALL TO ORDER

Recognizing a quorum, Chairperson William Finelli called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

A draft of the April 8, 2011 meeting minutes was mailed to the Committee members for review prior to today, and

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Dingley and seconded by Mr. Boyce, it was:

VOTED To approve the meeting minutes of April 8, 2011.

The following applications were then presented for consideration:

RECONSIDERATION HEARINGS

Rhonda Varrica

A 42 year old state certified nursing assistant at Zambarano Hospital for 17 years and 4 months.

Following the reconsideration hearing and upon a motion duly made by Mr. Dingley and seconded by Mr. Beardsley:

VOTED: To reaffirm the decision of April 8, 2011 to **Deny** the accidental disability pension. Mr. Boyce voted Nay.

Robyn Carosi

A 52 year old literacy coach teacher with Johnston Public school for 14 years and 6 months.

Following the reconsideration hearing and upon a motion duly made by Mr. Beardsley and seconded by Mr. Boyce it was unanimously:

VOTED: To **Grant** Ms. Carosi application for an ordinary disability.

ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY

Joanne Palazzo

A 52 year old teacher's aide at Central Falls School Department for 1 year and 10 months.

After reviewing the application, supporting documentation, the medical reports submitted by three physicians retained by the Retirement System and upon a motion duly made by Mr. Dingley and seconded by Mr. Beardsley:

VOTED: To **Postpone** a decision on the application for an accidental disability retirement pending further documentation.

Carson Orellana, Jr.

A 32 year old municipal patrol officer with Smithfield Police Department for 5 years and 7 months.

After reviewing the application, supporting documentation, the medical reports submitted by three physicians retained by the Retirement System and upon a motion duly made by Mr. Dingley and seconded by Ms. Rodriguez:

VOTED: To **Postpone** a decision on the application for an accidental disability retirement pending further documentation.

ORDINARY DISABILITY

Tilda Lewis-Grant

A 56 year old teacher with the Providence School Department for 12 years and 3 months.

After reviewing the application, supporting documentation, the medical reports submitted by physicians retained by the Retirement System and upon a motion duly made by Mr. Dingley and seconded by Mr. Beardsley:

VOTED: To recommend that the Retirement Board **Approve** the application for an ordinary disability retirement with a review to be completed next year.

Joseph DeCarlo

A 55 year old state certified nursing assistant with Zambarano Hospital for 28 years and 1 month.

After reviewing the application, supporting documentation, the medical reports submitted by physicians retained by the Retirement System and upon a motion duly made by Mr. Dingley and seconded by Ms. Rodriguez:

VOTED: To recommend that the Retirement Board **Approve** the application for an ordinary disability retirement.

Lillian Rivera

A 49 year old municipal sergeant with Cranston Police Department for 11 years and 10 months.

After reviewing the application, supporting documentation, the medical reports submitted by physicians retained by the Retirement System and upon a motion duly made by Mr. Dingley and seconded by Mr. Boyce:

VOTED: To recommend that the Retirement Board **Approve** the application for an ordinary disability retirement.

RECONSIDERATION HEARINGS

Anne Melvin

A 54 year old state juvenile program worker at DCYF for 11 years and 7 months.

Following the reconsideration hearing and upon a motion duly made by Mr. Dingley and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez it was unanimously:

VOTED: To reaffirm the decision of April 9, 2010 to **Deny** the accidental disability pension. Mr. Beardsley was not present for this vote.

Conceicao Medeiros

A 45 year old state certified nursing assistant with the RI Veterans Home for 3 years and 6 months.

Following the testimony of Ms. Medeiros and her request for a one month continuance upon a motion made by Mr. Dingley and seconded by Mr. Boyce it was unanimously:

VOTED:

To re-schedule the reconsideration hearing to June 3, 2011 regarding her accidental disability pension.

Mr. Dingley left the meeting.

MATTERS PREVIOUSLY POSTPONED

Olga Ortiz

A 48 year old state correctional officer with the RI Department of Corrections for 9 years and 11 months.

After reviewing the application, supporting documentation, the medical reports submitted by three physicians retained by the Retirement System, and hearing the testimony of Paul Kennedy upon a motion duly made by Mr. Boyce and seconded by Mr. Beardsley:

VOTED:

To **Postpone** a decision on the application for an accidental disability retirement pending further documentation. Mr. Dingley was not present.

Ms. Rodriguez left the meeting.

Post Retirement Review

Jerry Prete

Case was not reviewed

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Boyce and seconded by Mr. Beardsley, it was unanimously:

VOTED

To adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa A. Malone
MAM:gsb

May 27, 2011